

Salem's Telephone Exchange to Be 70 Years Old In May

The Salem telephone exchange, the third to be established in Oregon, will be 70 years old next month.

It was started—with fewer than a dozen subscribers—in May, 1884, just six years after the state's first exchange was opened at Portland in 1878 and a month after the Astoria exchange was established, on April 1, 1884.

Today, according to Pacific Telephone Manager E. A. Berglund, the Salem office is serving better than 25,700 telephones, of which 25,000 are owned by the company and 700 are owned by farmer-line users in the surrounding area.

Although it took nearly 60 years to reach the first 10,000 telephones, approximately 15,000 have been added in the last 10 years. The increase in telephones since World War II ended in 1945 has been more than 150 per cent. Average daily calls have increased over the same period by 123 per cent.

Berglund's records show that the first Salem switchboard was a 50-line magneto affair set up in the Western Union Telegraph Office. Among the earliest subscribers were E. M. Croisen, James Putnam, Dr. J. N. Smith, Dr. W. H. Byrd, W. S. Low, Col. Olmstead, Dr. Lee Steiner, R. J. Hendricks and O. L. Darling.

Moved to Drug Store
In 1890, the central office, then serving 115 customers, was moved to Dr. Steiner's drugstore at the corner of State and Commercial. Fifteen years later, the office was moved again, to a leased building at 170 N. Liberty street. It remained there until the present central office building at 740 State street was com-

Mental Health Institute Due Later in Year

Preliminary plans for a mental health institute to be held later this year were announced by Gov. Paul L. Patterson Thursday.

Such a meeting was suggested by Gov. Patterson at the first session of the mental health steering committee.

The committee was appointed by the governor to assist in coordinating state, local and private agencies working in the mental health field.

The institute, as proposed by the governor, would center its discussions on four issues, as follows:

1. What, precisely, is being done in improvement of mental health?
2. What are present and future needs?
3. How can these needs be met?
4. What are the prospects of interstate cooperation?

Detailed plans for the institute will be developed by two task force committees appointed by Dr. Harold M. Erickson, executive officer of the mental health steering committee.

Women Urge Reciprocal Trade Policy

DENVER (AP)—A request that the United States continue its reciprocal trade program was made Thursday by the League of Women Voters as soon as the organization decided at its national convention to support trade policies which will help solve national and international problems.

A telegram urging extension of the act was dispatched by the league president, Mrs. John G. Lee of Farmington, Conn., to President Eisenhower. The present law expires June 12. Similar telegrams were sent to Chairman Reed (R-NY) of the House Ways and Means Committee and to Rep. Kean (R-NJ), a member of the committee.

The league, nearing the end of its five-day 21st national convention, decided upon the trade policies measure as one of the principal items it will stress during the next two years.

Its second main objective will be "development of understanding of the relationship between individual liberty and the public interest."

The session closes Friday. The convention voted down, 313 to 397, a move to reconsider its rejection of making conservation of natural resources one of the principal study items. It remains as part of the league platform, however.

EGG-CITING CHASE
SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Grocer Robert Bryan kept all his eggs—17 dozen—in one basket. A thief grabbed it and ran. Eggs kept plopping to the pavement, but Special Patrolman Arthur Torres finally captured the thief, with only 31 unbroken eggs. He got 30 days in jail.

Tacoma Men File for Ford Agency Here

Filing of an assumed business name certificate Thursday with the Marion County clerk's office by two Tacoma men for the management of a Ford Motor Company dealership in Salem gave rise to the thought that the sale of the Valley Motor Company will be announced shortly.

Leslie E. Davis and Peter F. Bennisson filed for the name of the Bennisson-Davis Company.

E. Burr Miller, sales manager for the Valley Motor Company, said the transaction probably will be completed Saturday but declined to reveal the sale price. William E. Phillips, president of the company, indicated the buildings will not be included in the sale.

Illegal Entries Probably Net Burglar Little

Illegal entry sometime Wednesday night of the Top Hat Restaurant, 1275 State St., and the adjacent Lebold's Ice Cream Shop, 1265 State St., apparently netted the burglar very little.

Entrance was gained to the restaurant by breaking out a window at the rear of the building. The culprit then broke out the glass in an adjoining door and

16-Year-Old Held Here for Theft of Car

A 16-year-old Salem boy was arrested by city police Thursday and held for the Marion County juvenile court on charges of car theft.

The car was reported stolen from Loder Brothers Used Car Lot, 456 Center St., sometime during the night of April 23.

Police said the boy signed a statement admitting that he went to the lot on April 21 and tried out the car. He said he then went to the lot on April 23 and tried the car again, this time having a duplicate key made.

Returning to the lot that night, the boy said he took the car and drove to Portland where he stayed overnight and later drove to Brush Prairie, Wash., and stayed with a friend.

He returned to Oregon last Wednesday and left the car on a storage lot in Oregon City and hitch-hiked home. He was apprehended shortly after his return.

TOUGH TEACHING
PARIS, (INS)—Advices from Polish refugee circles say school teaching in Poland has been severely criticized by the Polish press. Over-loaded teaching programs, poor textbooks, and extra political propaganda tasks of teachers are blamed for the situation.

entered the ice cream store.

About \$2 in pennies and \$3 in change was believed taken from the cash register at the ice cream shop. As well, a metal box in the shop was forced open and business records strewn about.

Time Arrives For Spring Check of Cars

State traffic safety officials warned Thursday that the time has arrived for the spring check-up of all automobiles.

They said that during May, 1953, a safety checkup program in all states, the District of Columbia and Hawaii, disclosed that one out of four motor vehicles needed repair of parts involving safe operation.

A 10-point check-up was recommended by the Traffic Safety Division. This included brakes, headlights, rear end stop lights, tires, steering and wheel alignment, exhaust system and muffler, windshield wipers, windshield, horn and rear-view mirror.

Defects are responsible for approximately three per cent of all traffic accidents in Oregon, records show.

City Industrial Council Plans Meet Series

A series of meetings with industrialists of Salem and nearby communities will be held in May by Salem Industrial Development Council.

Salem industries will be divided into related groups and the others will be divided by communities for the separate meetings designed to inform the council on what steps it can take toward strengthening Salem area industry.

"This concentrated working

Club Begins Aid to Youths In Trouble

A Salem Exchange Club committee Thursday gave a \$10 check to Marion County Circuit Judge Joseph B. Felton to start a petty cash fund for boys and girls who appear before the county juvenile court.

The club voted to start the fund and contribute \$10 each month as a youth service program. Making the presentation were Dr. Bruce I. Knapp and V. E. Gibson, members of the club's board of control.

The fund will be used for miscellaneous items and aid for which no money has been authorized by the county, such as clothing, a haircut or a bus ticket. Other youth programs maintained by the Exchange Club include a Christmas toy drive, basketball tournaments and camping trips.

PREVENTION

DALLAS, Tex. (INS)—A Dallas youth is taking no chances on having parts of his automobile stolen. After parking his old-model sedan on a downtown street for the night, he removes the hub caps with a tire tool, stacks them inside the car, locks the door and goes his way.

with our own industries is just as important as going out after new industries," said J. R. Dudley, council manager, in discussing the coming meetings.

Dudley explained the industrial council setup at two meetings Thursday, appearing before Woodburn Rotary at noon and Salem 20-30 last night.

Strike Possible By Big Lumber Unions of NW

PORTLAND (AP)—A strike of both the big lumber unions in the Pacific Northwest became a possibility Thursday.

The AFL Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, claiming 85,000 workers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Northern California and Northern Nevada, authorized a strike vote to be conducted at once.

The CIO Woodworkers, claiming 50,000 workers, already have voted to strike, with May 3 set as the deadline.

The AFL union did not specify a date. Kenneth Davis, Northwest secretary for the union, said that, if a strike is authorized, union officials would set the deadline.

Both unions are seeking a 12 1/2-cent wage increase. Employers have insisted they cannot afford an increase. Both unions have been in separate negotiations with employers for several weeks without progress being reported.

The CIO union and employers representing the Douglas fir area of Western Washington and the Willamette Valley of Oregon will meet again here Friday under the auspices of the federal conciliation service in an attempt to settle differences before the strike deadline.

Grand Jury Report Due Late Today

NEWPORT (AP)—The third grand jury to investigate charges of vice and corruption of public officials in Lincoln County will make its report between 3 and 4 p.m. Friday.

Circuit Judge Fred McHenry, Corvallis, will be on hand to hear the report. It was McHenry who ordered the jury convened to hear the charges and to examine the work of two previous grand juries.

The jury was putting the final touches on its report Thursday afternoon.

Dragons—fabulous, huge, winged, fire-breathing lizards or snakes—have a place in the myths of many countries.

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- CARPETS**
- 9'x12' Beige Tone-on-Tone Axminster. Reg. \$71.40, now **\$59.00**
- 12'x8' Frieze, green. Reg. \$181.00, now **\$149.00**
- 12'x8'7" All-wool Wilton Texture, green. Reg. \$148.00, now **\$120.00**
- 9'x5'8" Axminster, grey tone-on-tone. Reg. \$39.95, now **\$19.95**
- 4'x9' All-wool brown, green leaf pattern. Regular \$51.50, now **\$24.95**
- 4'x9'2" Tone-on-Tone Rose Wilton. Reg. \$62.80, now **\$32.00**
- 12'x5'3" Wilton Beige, all wool. Reg. \$70.25, now **\$35.00**
- 9'x9' Axminster Beige, as is floor sample. Reg. \$59.95, now **\$35.00**
- 9'x12' Axminster Tone-on-Tone, floor sample. Reg. \$71.40, now **\$59.00**
- 36" Hemp Hall Runner. Reg. \$3.95 sq. yd., now sq. yd. **50¢**
- 12'x13'8" Axminster leaf pattern, beige. Reg. \$162.00, now **\$140.00**
- 12'x7'4" Axminster, beige. Reg. \$58.15, now **\$35.00**
- 7'x9' Beige Axminster. Reg. \$42.50, now **\$25.00**
- 9'x12' Grey Tone-on-Tone Axminster. Reg. \$71.40, now **\$59.00**

Dining Room

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